



The Messenger

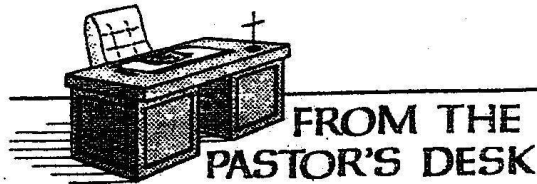
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold, Ph.D.
Pastor

Rev. William F. Rogers, S.T.M.
Pastor Emeritus



February 2014

Dear Friends,

As I work at my Parsonage desk overlooking the backyard, I have a good view of the bird feeders we've put back there. I watch sparrows, cardinals, and finches (and, yes, squirrels!) visiting the feeders, and I'm happy they're enjoying the food I've provided. Sometimes, however, they fight over the food, and I want to run out to them and yell "Wait a minute! That food came from me! None of you has any right to it - it's all a gift. Now settle down and share!"

I wonder how often God feels that way about us. When we bicker over power or attention I wonder if God isn't saying to us "Wait a minute! The Church came from me! None of you has any right to it - it's all a gift. Now settle down and share!"

The bitter cold reminds us of how much we depend on each other, not only for essential services and repairs, but also for the warmth of affection. Let us also remember that in our spiritual lives we are all offered nurture at the feeder God has provided. Let us avail ourselves of that opportunity and share it gladly.

Faithfully,
Pastor Judi



ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

All information for “The Annual Report – 2013” should be submitted to Frannie Lobdell by January 30th.

This includes letters, committee reports, Board of Trustee reports, Bargain Shed and Book Nook reports, reports from the Choir Directors and a report from the Sunday School Superintendent.

Also, all financial reports, membership statistics, audit report, 2014 proposed budget, and the Report of Committee on Lay Leadership for 2014.



**SOUPER
BOWL
SUNDAY**

RETURNS TO GRACE UMC

The Sunday School is looking for donations of homemade soup and bread. Souper Bowl of Caring takes place on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2nd. We have participated in this event for 8 years. As in previous years, the

annual Souper Bowl Luncheon will be during coffee hour. Lunch includes soup, bread, dessert, and drink for only \$4. It is an all-you-can-eat after everyone has gone through the line once. Invite a friend to join you! (Take-out will be available if you can't stay.)

ACOUSTIC DOORWAYS AT GRACE UMC

The Acoustic Doorways Concert will be held at our church at 7:30pm on Friday, February 7th. The featured artist is Maria Zemantauski and Alegria.

A short history of Ms. Zemantauski's accomplishments as told on her website includes her as one of the world's few heralded female flamenco-style guitarists, and one of even fewer female flamenco composers. She has performed in Spain, Italy and across the continental United States to great acclaim.

Her albums *Mrs. Laughinghouse* (1997), *Seeing Red* (2000), *Under the Lemon Tree* (2005) and *Petty Feet & Mistletoe* (2010), have received stellar reviews from music critics around the world. It's sure to be a great night of music and dance.

We are asking the congregation to donate baked goods as we have in the

past. This concert series brings many new faces to our church and they always respond well to our hospitality. Please deliver the baked goods prior to the concert; preferably before 7pm. Tickets will be \$5 at the door.



ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Our annual Valentines Day Spaghetti Dinner will be on Saturday, February 15th.

We will be offering the regular menu along with gluten-free spaghetti, sauce and brownies for any who would prefer that.

As in the past, we are asking members of the congregation for donations of jars of their favorite sauce. Also needed are volunteers for set up (Friday and Saturday – February 14 and 15), kitchen help, wait staff and clean-up.

Take-outs will start at 4:30pm and seating will begin at 5pm. The menu includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll and brownies a la mode. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for those 12 and under, with children 2 and under free.

THANK YOU!

Pastor Judi expresses thanks to all who gave expressions of affection to her and her family during the Advent season. May God bless you all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY

The beginning ministry of Jesus is February's emphasis for the younger elementary and preschool children in the Sunday School. The following themes and crafts will enhance their lessons:

February 2 – All-Sunday School Activity with Kate Robertson

February 9 – Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law/Healing Tools with Jan Bradshaw, R.N.

February 16 – The Beatitudes/Valentines & Beatitude Craft with Dotty Backlund

February 23 – Jesus Calms the Storm/Singing with Sharon Phillips





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Best wishes to everyone celebrating in February:

- 5 Linda Sherman
- 7 John Robertson
- 14 Kathy Porterfield
- 17 Amy Devine-Young
- 19 Meaghan Houk
- 20 Sharon Phillips
- 24 Amy & Mark Young



BOOK NOOK UPDATE

The Book Nook team appreciates those folks who have volunteered to adopt a bookshelf category to organize and maintain for the 2014 year.

Categories still available for adoption are Sports and Religion. It can be a one-time job if you choose. Please see Joy Mayo or Jean Gordon to volunteer.

This work makes it easier to find what one is looking for and provides a more professional appearance.

Please mark **March 14 and 15** on your calendar. That will be the date of the **SPRING BOOK SALE**.

It might be a wise idea to pick up a few books. You never know when that next winter storm might come.

As of January 19th, **\$405** in books have been sold. This is a great start for 2014!



SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

On January 5th, the Sunday School was visited by some special guests. Alissa from Peppertree Rescue came with her dogs (Fluff and Yaddo) to share a little about their organization. The kids enjoyed petting the dogs and learning a little about how they care for them.





The children helped make home-made dog biscuits following Alissa's presentation. The dogs definitely en-

joyed their special treats! We will be collecting canned dog food and blankets to donate to Peppertree Rescue through the end of January, so please drop off your donation in the box outside the office. Thank you!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Sunday School will be collecting snacks and goodies for our college students so that we can send them a care package in early March. If you would like to contribute some food or donate money to offset shipping costs,

please see Kate Robertson. We also need current addresses for our college students, so please email them to rarksr@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

This month the Sunday School will be collecting items to help St. Patrick's food pantry, as their supplies are running low. The **first week** of February we will be collecting **soup**, to go along with Souper Bowl Sunday. The week of **February 9th** we will be collecting **cereal**, the week of **February 16th** we will be collecting **pasta** and the **last week** of February we will be collecting **peanut butter**. A large box will be put outside the office and if the kids overflow the box, they will be treated to a pancake breakfast the following month!

The Youth Group will be meeting on Friday, January 31st at the Robertson's house to do some baking for the upcoming Souper Bowl. See Barbara Coryell for details.

BARGAIN SHED

Seems like just yesterday we were closing the shop at the end of the 2013 season. And here we are...talking about opening for 2014. This year we will be **opening on Saturday, April**

5th. The days and hours the Shed will be open remain the same.

Please remember us when you start your Spring cleaning. The week before we open we will be accepting Spring/Summer clothes and any other items you wish to donate. (We don't accept TV's or computers.)

More information will follow in the March newsletter.

Update on Bargain Shed receipts for 2013: \$7,373 in sales during the season plus \$565 in receipts on Fall Fair Day = total receipts of **\$7,938!**



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDLY

Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*





LOVE GAUGE

THE TOUCH OF CHRIST

Disability advocate Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic since a 1967 diving accident, is also a cancer survivor. Breast cancer “was a bruising of a blessing,” she says, “because it helped us face our own mortality.”

The “us” refers to Ken Tada, her husband of 30+ years. In *Joni and Ken: An Untold Love Story* (Zondervan), the couple shares how physical challenges have brought them closer to God and one another. During the “worst of all nights,” when pneumonia ravaged Joni’s chemotherapy-weakened body, she asked God to help her sense his presence.

As Joni summoned Ken for the third time that night, her prayers were answered. She “could feel the touch of Christ” while her husband ministered to her needs and offered encouraging words.

Spouses – and, indeed, all Christians – are called to be Jesus to one another. He says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

In a ship’s engine room, it’s impossible to look into the great boiler and see how much water remains. But running up beside it is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in the little tube, so it stands in the great boiler. When the tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty, the boiler is empty.

Do you ask, “How do I know I love God? I believe I love him, but I want to know.” Look at the gauge: Your love for other people is the measure of your love for God.

- S.S. Chronicle

WEIRDLY COMPATIBLE

We’re all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness – and call it love – true love.

-Robert Fulghum, *True Love*



“Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.”

-Robert Heinlein

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, please join the church page by *liking us* at Grace United Methodist Church, Ravena, NY. Find out what's happening each week from Sunday's Service sermon title and hymns to meetings and special events.

OR VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.graceumcravena.org



Deadline for articles for the **March** issue of *The Messenger* is **February 16th**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**